



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue #4

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

7 June 2012

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number **(877) 285-8525** and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Insect Scouting Clinics

Instead of offering sit-down scouting schools this year, the consensus was that in-field, hands-on insect scouting and management clinics would be preferred at a couple of key times in the season. We had our first of these clinics a couple of weeks ago here at EREC where we focused on early-season insect problems in cotton (thrips) and soybeans (kudzu bugs). Attendance was very poor, but we visited some of my plots...the tour, information, and cold drinks were free and available. Future insect scouting clinics will be announced, as previously, here in the Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter – at least a week in advance.

News from Above the Lakes

David DeWitt, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, reported that he observed this nice stand of soybeans, a MGW soybean (Pioneer 95M82) planted on 20 April, near the county line of Lee and Sumter Counties with a low population of kudzu bugs. The beans have not yet been treated with insecticide. They have only had an herbicide application behind the planter so far. As you can see in the other photo, only small groupings of kudzu bugs are present on these beans. A clear reason to scout each field!



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News from Below the Lakes

Jonathan Croft, county agent covering Dorchester and Berkeley Counties, reported that he is “getting some reports of cotton being sprayed twice for thrips. Not cotton or soybean related but have been seeing some stink bugs in tomatoes.”

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

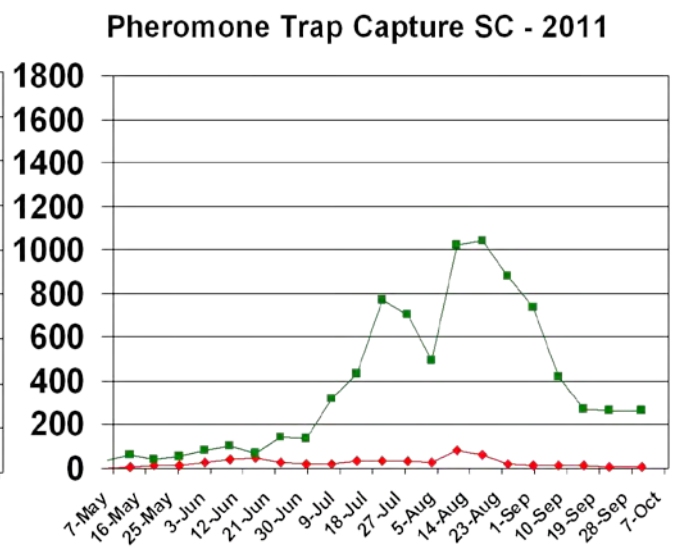
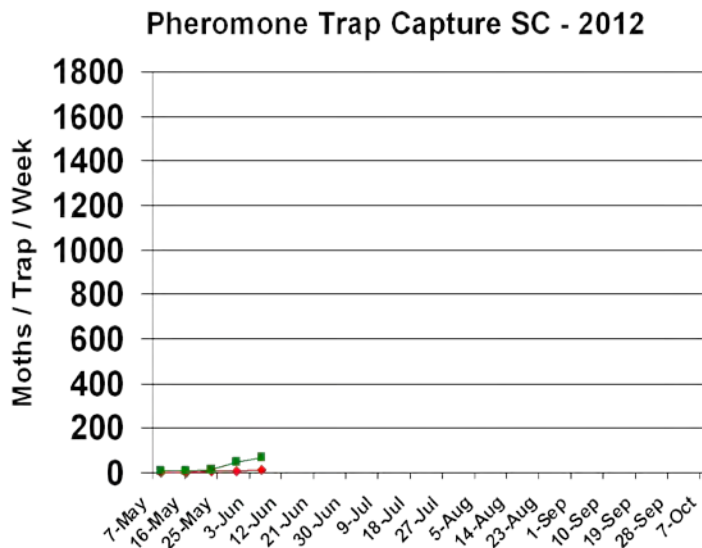
Chris Talley, county agent covering Anderson, Pickens, and Spartanburg Counties, reported that all is “ordinary” right now, with kudzu bugs being a normal part of the picture these days in soybeans.

Jay Crouch, county agent covering Saluda, Newberry, Laurens, Fairfield, and Edgefield Counties, reported that “we’ve got kudzu bugs on early beans. Thrips pressure is minimal [on cotton] as of now.”

Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2011 for reference. Current numbers are on track for historical patterns. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



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Cotton Situation

As of 4 June 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at about 91% planted, very close to where we were in 2011 at 92% and the 5-yr average of 94%. About 5% of the crop is squaring, ahead of where we were last year at 1%, with the 5-yr average at 0%. Conditions of the cotton crop are described as 5% excellent, 59% good, 34% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. The recent rains have helped tremendously, and soil moisture levels in the state have greatly improved at 3% very short, 21% short, and 68% adequate, and 8% surplus. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Soybean Situation

As of 4 June 2012, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 60% planted, behind where we were last year at 70% but equal to the 5-yr average of 60%. About 48% of planted soybeans have emerged, close to where we were last year at 53% and a little ahead of the 5-yr average of 44%. Conditions of the soybean crop are described as 3% excellent, 63% good, 32% fair, 2% poor, and 0% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Kudzu Bug/Bean Plataspid

Immature kudzu bugs are now showing up in our early-planted (20 April) soybeans here at the Edisto REC. This is much earlier than last year. In one of my fields, nymphs are hatching out of eggs that undoubtedly made it through an insecticide application. Two weeks ago, I treated these soybeans with 4.5 oz of Endigo, and that totally eliminated the adults in the field, leaving only the tons of egg masses they left behind. On Monday (about 11 days after the spray), I took the photos here of nymphs that hatched out of the eggs that had to be present during the insecticide application. So, as with many insect species, the eggs of kudzu bugs are apparently not very susceptible to insecticides. They must hatch from those eggs before we can control the majority of them. This is important information for planning sprays for this new pest. Again, this is another case for having a scout look at your fields.



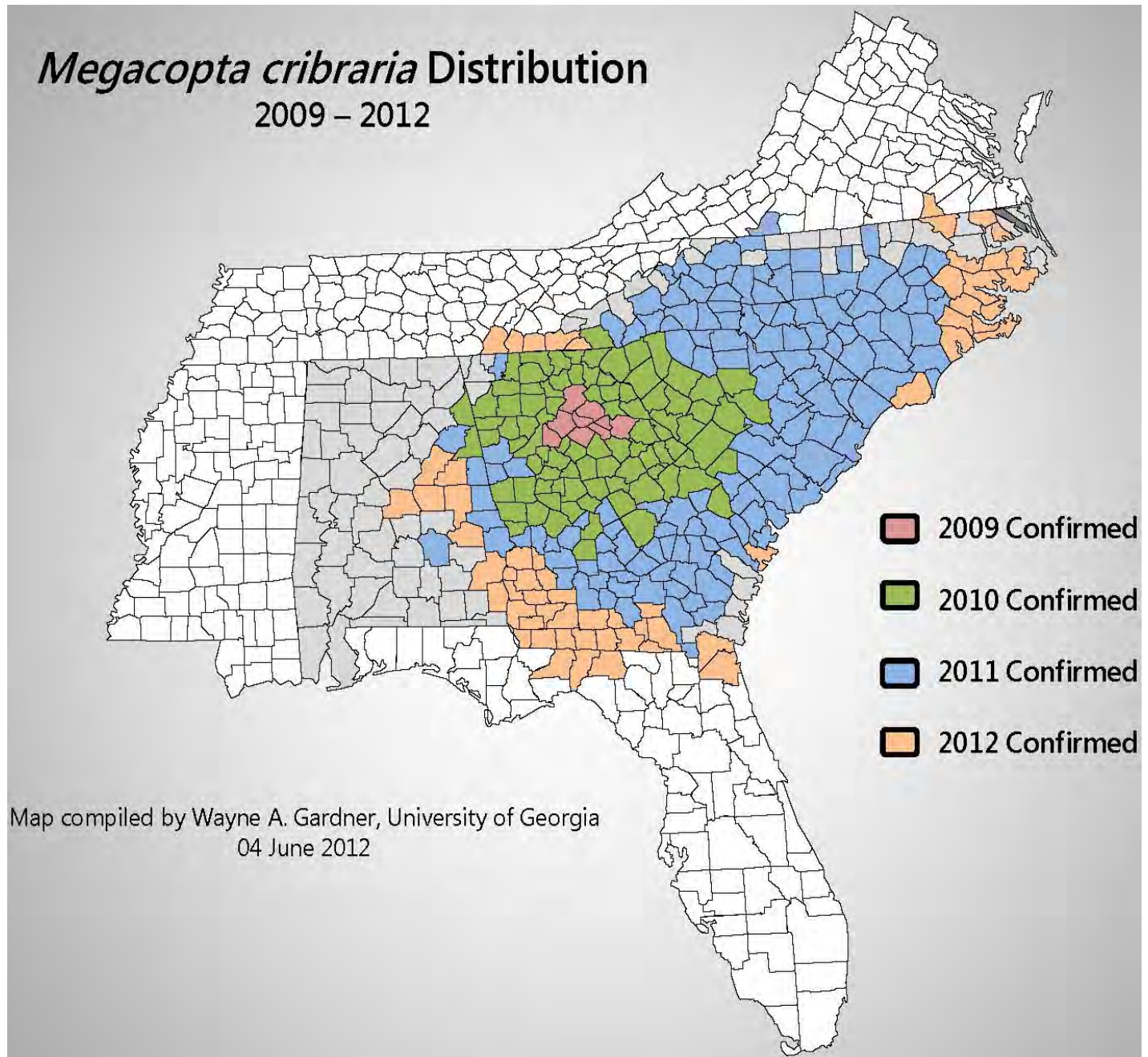
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Below is the latest map of the distribution of the kudzu bug, *Megacopta cribraria*, in the Southeast. Many thanks to Dr. Wayne Gardner (UGA) for updating and supplying this map every week. **Tennessee now joins the list of states reporting the invasive species.** There are **7 states** now reporting this invasive species. In order of appearance of the pest: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, Florida, and Tennessee.



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Our recommendations for managing kudzu bugs in soybeans that were put together during the winter months based on our experiences last year can be found at:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/pdfs/kudzu_bug_insecticide_soybeans.pdf

Visit our kudzu bug webpage for the latest information on this new pest:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/kudzubugs/index.html>



Pest Management Handbook - 2012

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2012 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/index.html>

Need More Information?

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.

Associate Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:

<http://www.clemson.edu>

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